

## Environmental Justice Update for SCAG's Upcoming 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

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## Overview



- Outreach updates
- Methodology/analysis updates
- Next Steps



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## Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy

# What is an RTP/SCS?

- Represents the long-term vision to address regional transportation and land use challenges and opportunities
- Includes a corresponding investment framework
- Federal Requirements for all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) such as SCAG
  - Must be updated every 4 years to maintain eligibility for federal funding
  - Must be long-range: 20+ years into the future
  - Must be financially-constrained: Revenues = Costs
  - Must pass regional emission standards (Conformity)
- State Requirements
  - Must meet SB 375 requirements (address GHG reductions)



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## Background on Environmental Justice

### Fundamental Principles



■ To **ensure the full and fair participation** by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process

■ To **avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects**, on minority populations and low-income populations

■ To **prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits** by minority and low-income populations

- U.S. Department of Transportation, An Overview of Transportation and Environmental Justice



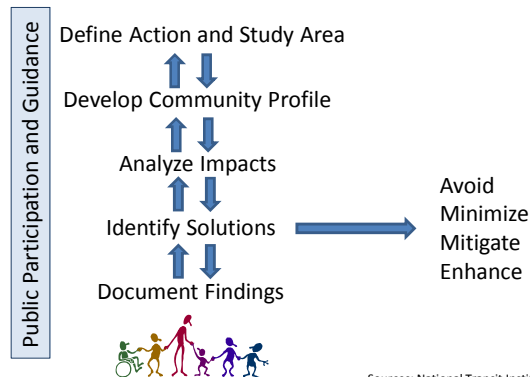
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## Background on Environmental Justice

### Federal Guidance for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- Analysis is Plan Specific - MPOs must conduct an evaluation of system-level environmental justice impacts from a collection of projects in long-range plans
- Environmental justice should also be considered when long-range plans are moved into the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

#### Assessment Process



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Sources: National Transit Institute, Federal Transit Administration

## Background on Environmental Justice

### SCAG's Environmental Justice Policy



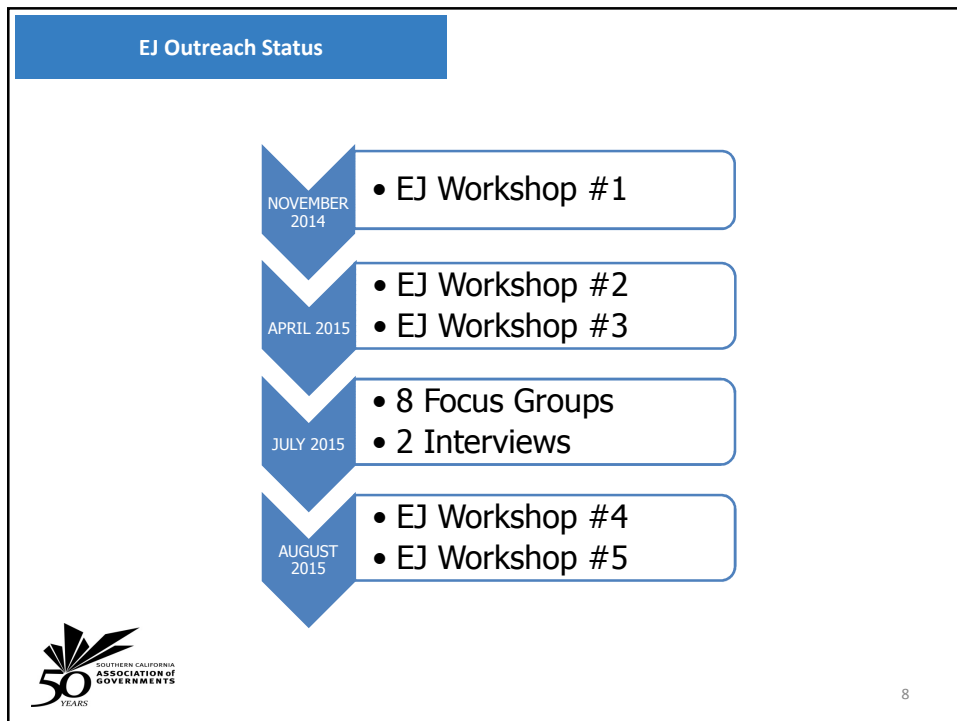
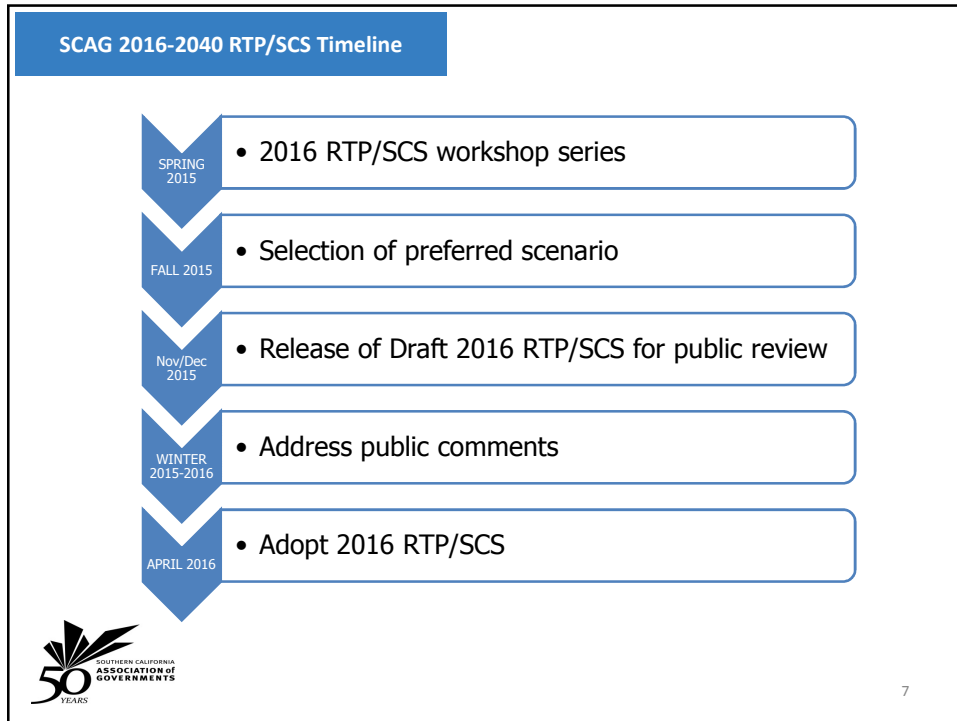
- When disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations are identified, SCAG takes steps to consider alternative approaches or propose mitigation measures for the SCAG region

- Continues to evaluate and respond to environmental justice issues that arise during and after the implementation of SCAG's regional plans

- If disproportionate impacts are found, SCAG will analyze the impacts and identify potential solutions to incorporate into the long-range transportation plan.



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## Technical Analysis Introduction

## Identifying EJ Population Groups

**Minority:**

- A person who is African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

**Low-Income:**

- A person whose median income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines

**Other Groups:**

- Non-English speakers, Households without vehicles, Population without a high school degree or equivalent, Disabled individuals, Seniors, ages 65 and over, Young children, ages 4 and under

## Technical Analysis Introduction

**Performance Indicators**

- Benefits and Burdens Analysis
  - RTP revenue sources in terms of tax burdens
  - Share of transportation system usage
  - RTP/SCS investments
- Distribution of travel time savings and travel distance reductions
- Jobs-housing imbalance or jobs-housing mismatch
- Accessibility to employment and services
- Accessibility to parks and natural lands
- Gentrification and displacement
- Air quality impacts along freeways
- Environmental impacts of plan and baseline scenarios
- Aviation noise impacts
- Roadway noise impacts
- Active transportation hazards (NEW in 2016)
- Public Health Impacts (NEW in 2016)
- Rail-related impacts
- Climate adaptation (NEW in 2016)

## Technical Analysis Introduction

## Regional, Local, and Community Analysis

## Regional Analysis:

- *Appropriate when determining system-wide impacts (e.g. Financial Benefits and Burdens)*

## Local Analysis:

- *Appropriate for determining adverse impacts at the community level (emissions, noise, etc.)*

## Community Analysis:

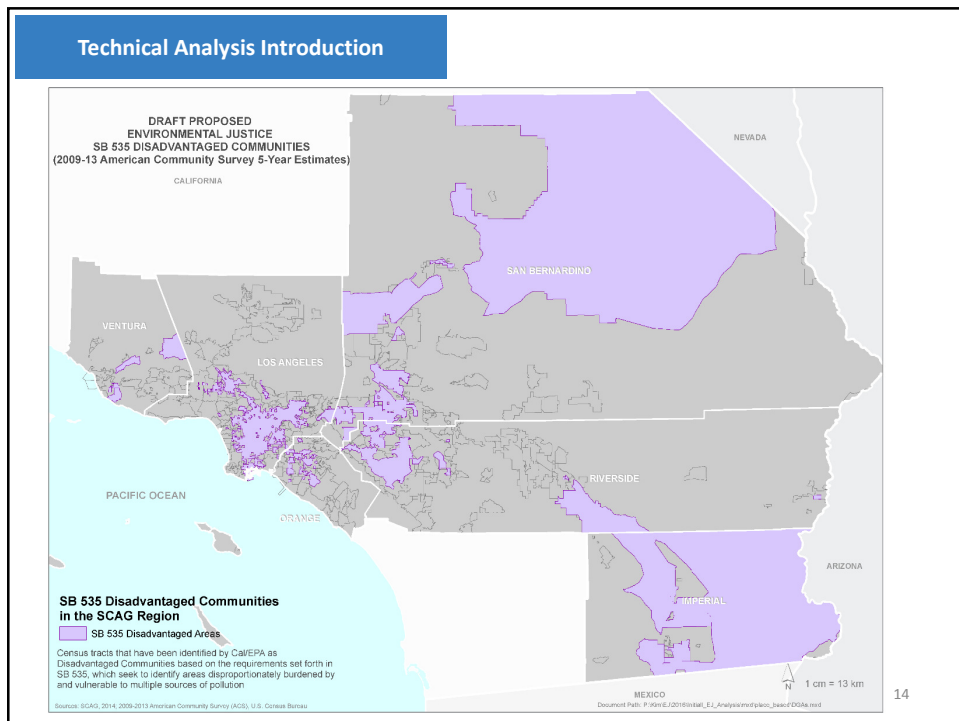
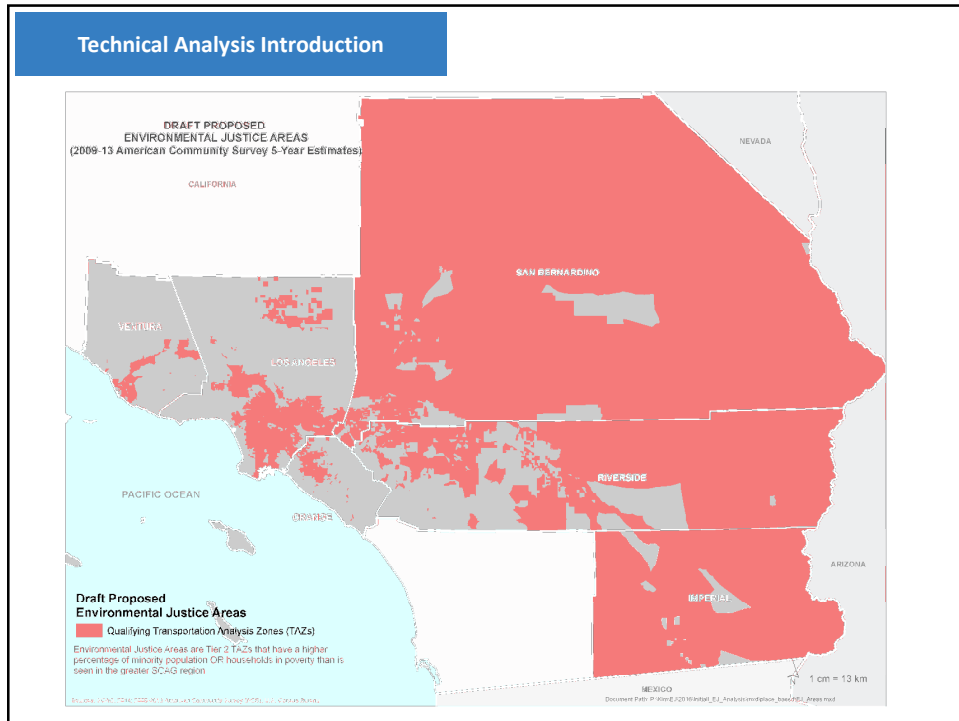
- *Appropriate for tabulating impacts of the RTP/SCS in selected places according to a "Communities of Concern" approach*

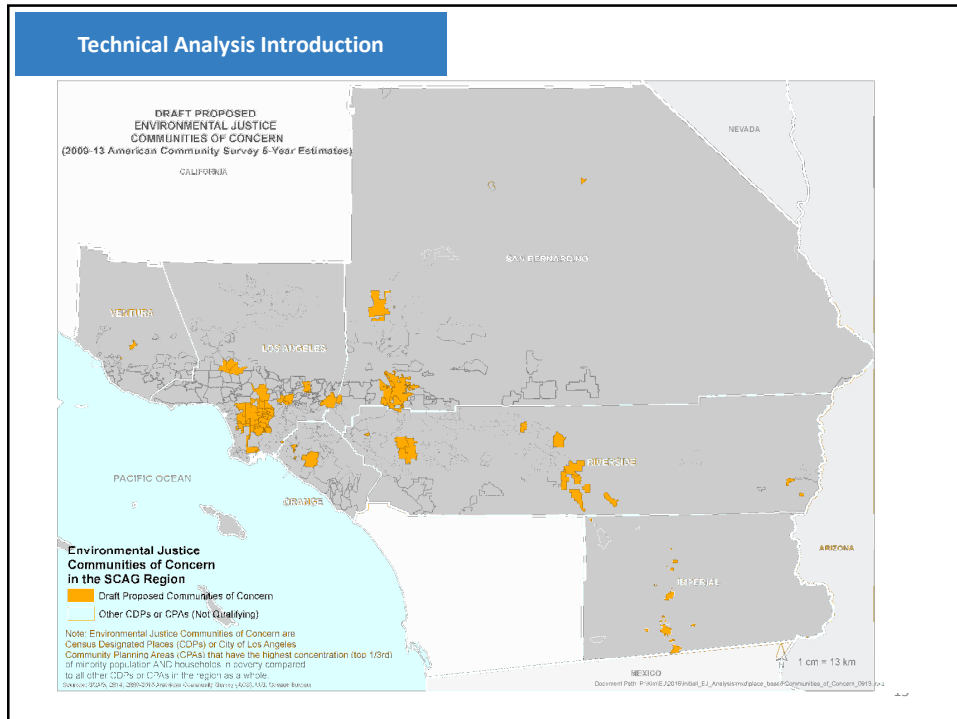
## Technical Analysis Introduction

## Community Analysis

- **Environmental Justice Areas** - ***Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs)***, which are similar to block groups, that have a ***higher concentration of minority OR low income households*** than is seen in the region as a whole. The inclusion of this geography helps to fulfill SCAG's Title VI requirements, along with other state and federal environmental justice guidelines
- **SB 535 Disadvantaged Areas** – ***Census tracts*** that have been identified by ***Cal/EPA as Disadvantaged Communities*** based on the requirements set forth in SB 535, which seek to identify areas disproportionately burdened by and vulnerable to multiple sources of pollution.
- **Communities of Concern** – ***Census Designated Places (CDPs) and City of Los Angeles Community Planning Areas (CPAs)*** that fall in the upper 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all communities in the SCAG Region for having the ***highest concentration of minority population AND low income households***







## Workshop Input

### 1. Active Transportation and Public Health

- How can we increase opportunities for bicycling and walking for EJ communities and improve public health impacts?

### 2. Air Quality

- How can we minimize the effects of air pollution on communities that live close to freeways and railways?

### 3. Transit, Access, and Land Use

- How can we improve access to transit and access to jobs, schools, parks, shopping, and other amenities particularly for EJ communities?

### 4. Gentrification

- How can we avoid or offset the effects of gentrification on low-income and minority communities?

### 5. Other Potential Solutions for EJ

- What other measures should SCAG include as part of its EJ Toolbox to minimize or avoid impacts to EJ communities?

Thank you!

# Questions?

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